



# Sensors Enable Plants to Text Message Farmers

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## **NASA Technology**

- ◆ Astronauts living in space for extended periods of time, like those on deep-space missions, will need to grow their own food.
- ◆ As resources in space are severely limited and costly, systems that maximize efficiency will make long-term space flight possible.



## **Technology Transfer**

- ◆ AgriHouse partnered with BioServe Space Technologies, recipient of Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) funding, to develop sensors that use electrical pulses to determine when a plant loses its rigidity to the point where it needs water.
- ◆ In a laboratory test, the new system decreased water usage by between 25 and 45 percent.

## **Benefits**

- ◆ The technology will allow farmers in the water-scarce West to conserve their resources.
- ◆ AgriHouse sees a future where farmers can receive text messages on their plants' health.
- ◆ While current users are researchers, MBA students are working on business models to expand the product's reach in the market.